

# Chippewa Cree

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Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)

The **Chippewa Cree Tribe** is a mixed group of [Native Americans](#) in [Montana](#), among the last to come into the state. They are descended from [Cree](#) that had come south from [Canada](#), and from [Chippewa](#) that had moved west from the [Turtle Mountains](#) in [North Dakota](#).

## [[edit](#)] History

The Chippewa-Chief *Asiniiwin* and Cree-Chief Little Bear were the founders of the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation in north central Montana for whom the Reservation was named. They petitioned President [Theodore Roosevelt](#) in January 1902 for land and a reservation to call home so their band of men, women and children could get an education. The members were counted in a 1909 census conducted by Thralls B. Wheat, an allotting agent of the [Department of the Interior](#). This census was certified by the agency in April 1909.

Congress passed legislation on September 7, 1916, (39 [Stat.](#) 739) creating the [Rocky Boy Indian Reservation](#). In May 1917 the Interior Department generated a new census that consisted mainly of [Cree](#) and [Metis](#) who were found to have been born in Canada[[citation needed](#)]. Less than 45 of the 451 names that comprised the "Tentative Roll of the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation" were actual Chippewa from the earlier 1909 roll[[citation needed](#)]. The Cree are descendants of Chief Little Bear (Imasees) and the Metis are descendants of the Louis Riel band of Metis. In spite of major deficiencies in the 1917 roll, it was approved by the Department of the Interior in July 1917. The Cree and Metis are present upon the Rocky Boy Reservation under self declared adopted status, as worded in the Chippewa Cree Tribal Constitution, certified by the Department of the Interior in 1935[[citation needed](#)].

This same constitution has eliminated many of *Asiniiwin*'s descendants and his clan's descendants under a ten year absentee provision, though the Chippewa Cree Business Committee recently repealed this act; it has retained its ability to address "abandonment of tribal membership." The Cree and Metis make up over 90% of "tribal enrollees," the remnants of Chief *Asiniiwin*'s people are scattered throughout the towns of the Pacific Northwest, a good segment of them bought plots of land on Hill 57, outside [Great Falls, Montana](#) after leaving the reservation; therefore; their names were not included in the governments May 1917 census.

## [[edit](#)] See also

[Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana](#)

## [[edit](#)] External links

[Cree history and past major key events](#)

[[hide](#)]

**v • d • e** [Pembina Chippewa](#)

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[Article](#)

[Discussion](#)

[Edit this page](#)

[History](#)

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[Try Beta](#)

[Log in / create account](#)

[/wiki/Main\\_Page](#)

#### Navigation

[Main page](#)

[Contents](#)

[Featured content](#)

[Current events](#)

[Random article](#)

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Special:Se	<input type="text"/>	Go	Search
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[Community portal](#)

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[Cite this page](#)

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